

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 have been canceled, and claims 20 and 21 have been amended so that they are in independent form to place the application in condition for allowance.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoneda et al (WO 03/013446 A1) in view of Goodman et al (U.S. Patent 4,883,659).

In response, and to expedite allowance, claims 11-18 have been canceled. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Objection

On page 10 of the Office Action, in paragraph 14, the Examiner has objected to claims 20-22 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but has indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 20-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the Examiner's indication, Applicant has rewritten claims 20 and 21 in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim (intervening claim 20 did not have any further limitations to be included in claim 21, since the two claims are the same except

that component (b) in claim 20 is water and/or polyhydric alcohol, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is water and glycerin, while component (b) in claim 21 is simply water and glycerin). Claim 22 depends on claim 21, and thus should be allowable as depending on an allowable claim.

Thus, Applicant submits that the objection is overcome, and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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